

What is claimed is:

1. A software deployment tool cooperable with a  
software package including a software package file  
incorporating at least one action defining respective  
modifications to said client processing system and at  
least one file required to implement said at least one  
modifying action, said tool comprising:

5           a plurality of classes, each class corresponding to  
10          a respective type of action;

15          means for reading said software package file and  
instantiating a class having attributes corresponding to  
the respective type of each of the at least one action of  
said software package file and setting the attributes of  
the at least one class according to the respective action  
definition in said software package file,

20          means for executing a check method on at least one  
of each of said at least one class instances to determine  
if a deployment operation can be implemented in a  
specified first mode;

25          means, responsive to a successful check, for  
executing a method on each of said at least one class  
instances in said first mode; and

              means, responsive to check failure of any class  
instance, for executing a method on each of said at least  
one class instances in a second less preferable mode.

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2. A software deployment tool according to claim 1  
wherein said deployment operation is one of installation  
or removal of a software package.

5 3. A software deployment tool according to claim 1  
wherein said first mode is an undoable mode and said  
second mode is a basic mode.

10 4. A software deployment tool according to claim 1  
wherein said first mode is a basic mode and said second  
mode is a transactional mode.

15 5. A computer program product comprising computer  
program code stored on a computer readable storage medium  
for, when executed on a computing device, processing a  
software package file, the program code comprising the  
software deployment tool of claim 1.

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